

CLAIMS

1. An iron supplementing agent comprising a siderophore and iron (III) ions.

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2. An iron supplementing agent according to Claim 1, wherein a siderophore and iron (III) ions are contained in the form of a chelate complex.

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3. An iron supplementing agent according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the siderophore incorporates hydroxamic acids.

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4. An iron supplementing agent according to Claim 3, wherein the chelate complex is a ferrichrome.

5. An iron supplementing agent according to Claim 4, wherein the ferrichrome is ferrichrysin.

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6. An agent for preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia, comprising a siderophore and iron (III) ions.

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7. An agent for preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia according to Claim 6, wherein a siderophore and iron (III) ions are contained in the form of a chelate complex.

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8. An agent for preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia according to Claim 6 or 7, wherein the siderophore incorporates hydroxamic acids.

9. An agent for preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia according to Claim 8, wherein the chelate complex is a ferrichrome.

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10. An agent for preventing or treating iron

deficiency anemia according to Claim 9, wherein the ferrichrome is ferrichrysin.

11. A food additive for iron supplementation
5 comprising a siderophore and iron (III) ions.

12. A food additive for preventing or improving iron deficiency anemia comprising a siderophore and iron (III) ions.

10 13. A food composition comprising a siderophore and iron (III) ions.

14. A food composition according to Claim 13,
wherein a siderophore and iron (III) ions are contained in the
15 form of a chelate complex.

15. A food composition according to Claim 13 or 14,
wherein the food composition is in solid form, and contains 0.1
to 5 mg/g of the siderophore and iron (III) ions in terms of a
20 chelate complex.

16. A food composition according to Claim 13 or 14,
wherein the food composition is in liquid form, and contains
0.05 to 10 mg/ml of the siderophore and iron (III) ions in terms
25 of a chelate complex.

17. A food composition according to Claim 16, wherein
the food is a beverage selected from the group consisting of
liquors, teas, coffees, sports drinks, refreshment drinks, dairy
30 drinks, and soups.

18. A food composition according to any one of
Claims 13 to 17 for use in iron supplementation.

35 19. A food composition according to any one of

Claims 13 to 17 for use in preventing or improving iron deficiency anemia.

20. A food composition according to any one of
5 Claims (i) to (vi) below, each comprising a siderophore and iron (III) ions:

(i) a food composition which has the function of supplementing iron, and carries an indication specifying a use for supplementing iron;

10 (ii) a food composition which has the function of assisting iron, and carries an indication specifying a use for assisting iron;

(iii) a food composition which has the function of fortifying iron, and carries an indication specifying a use for
15 fortifying iron;

(iv) a food composition which has the function of adding iron, and carries an indication specifying a use for adding iron;

(v) a food composition which has the function of
20 maintaining bodily iron content at a normal level, and carries an indication specifying a use for maintaining bodily iron content at a normal level; and

(vi) a food composition which has the function of eliminating or alleviating iron deficiency in the body, and
25 carries an indication specifying a use for eliminating or alleviating iron deficiency in the body.

21. An iron supplementing method comprising
administering a composition containing a siderophore and iron
30 (III) ions to a human.

22. An iron supplementing method according to Claim 21, wherein 20 to 170 mg of a siderophore and iron (III) ions in terms of a chelate complex is administered per day.

23. A method of preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia comprising administering a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions to a human.

5 24. A method of preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia according to Claim 23, wherein 20 to 170 mg of a siderophore and iron (III) ions in terms of a chelate complex is administered per day.

10 25. A method of adding a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions to a food.

 26. Use of a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions as an iron supplementing agent.

15 27. Use of a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions as an agent for preventing or treating iron deficiency anemia.

20 28. Use of a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions as a food additive for iron supplementation.

 29. Use of a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions as a food additive for preventing or
25 improving iron deficiency anemia.

 30. Use of a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions as a food composition for iron
supplementation.

30 31. Use of a composition containing a siderophore and iron (III) ions as a food composition for preventing or
improving iron deficiency anemia.

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